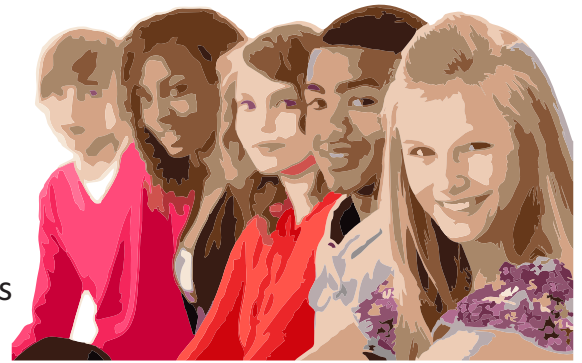


News from ACES

Your Local Drug Free Community Coalition



It takes a community to work together in order to reduce youth drug and alcohol use. Avon's Drug Free Communities coalition, ACES does just that. The goal of the coalition is to unite the community and to reduce drug and alcohol use among youth.

Underage Drinking

On an average day in June, July, or **December**, more than **11,000 youths** used alcohol for the first time; in other months, the daily average ranged from about 5,000 to 8,000 new users per day. Why is this a concern? **Youth who begin drinking before age 15 are 5 times more likely to be addicted to alcohol by age 21.** *(For more information, see the back of this newsletter.)*

Youth ACES members have been working hard to get the message out about underage drinking. This December, grab some pizza from **Geri's Pizza Galore, Nana's Pizza** or the **Avon House of Pizza** to check out the Holiday Sticker Shock Campaign. Stickers were posted on pizza boxes and bags during the holiday season to remind the public that alcohol is not for kids and that most adults don't serve alcohol to minors.



ACES Youth Post Stickers on Pizza Bags

Drinking and Driving

ACES is also partnering with the Norfolk County District Attorney's office on their holiday campaign to reduce drinking and driving. Participating pouring establishments in Avon will give complimentary soft drinks to designated drivers during the holiday season. For more on this campaign, check out the Norfolk County District Attorney's FaceBook page!

Hooked

This fall, students from the AMHS Drama Club and youth who participate in SALSA- a program of ACES (students advocating for life without substance abuse) put on a production titled **"Hooked- Stories of Addiction, Recovery and Hope."**

The first half of the program featured monologues written by the students about persons struggling with substance use disorders. The second half of the program featured stories from people in recovery as well as information from local agencies working together to address substance use disorders. All proceeds (over \$600.00) from the performances were donated to Learn to Cope, Independence Academy and Teen Challenge- Brockton.

Thanks to Avon Community Access and Media, the performance was taped and is available on YouTube (use the ACES FaceBook to easily find the performance). The performance is also available to borrow at the Avon Public Library and will be shown on Avon cable access.

For more about ACES, check out: www.acesavon.com